

Funding for Innovative Teaching at the University of Bremen

Strategic Objectives

The promotion of innovation in teaching is a central pillar of the strategic development of teaching and studies at the University of Bremen. This funding measure is aligned with the University's mission statement as well as the mission statement for teaching; it is designed to address current societal developments as well as didactic challenges and opportunities.

The design of teaching and studies focuses on research-based learning and participation, a reflective digitalization of teaching, the subject-specific integration of sustainability, a communication-oriented and relationship-based teaching culture, and an appreciative approach to diversity. Teaching promotes both the subject-specific and transversal competencies of students to prepare them for new requirements and the assumption of responsibility within societal transformation processes.

The funding program aims to translate these guidelines into concrete changes within courses and modules. Funded projects strengthen the University's profile and improve the academic culture through active student participation, increased flexibility, and an enhancement of teaching and learning relationships. The goal is to develop contemporary, process-oriented, and competency-based examination formats that account for the challenges posed by AI systems and implement didactic principles, such as Constructive Alignment¹.

What can be funded?

Funding is available for teaching innovations that align with the teaching profile of the University of Bremen, integrate current developments and requirements, and improve the learning experience as well as examination formats for students. Within strategically oriented curricular change processes, this funding is intended to enable innovations in courses and degree programs by providing instructors with additional resources to implement new and innovative forms of teaching. Sustainability and the transferability of the concepts are central criteria for eligibility.

What funds can be requested?

For a duration of up to one year (two semesters), funds of up to **7,500 Euros** may be requested. These funds are to be used for the development and testing of innovations in courses, modules, or study sections. Funding may be requested for student assistants, teaching assignments, the creation of materials, publication costs, honoraria, or travel expenses.

How to apply

- Application documents can be found [on the website](#).

¹ See for example B. Hawelka (2024): „[Constructive Alignment](#)“.

- Funding applications can be submitted until **September 15, 2026**, to hddg@vw.uni-bremen.de.
- Eligibility: Researchers with teaching obligations: university lecturers and independent academic mid-level faculty – including teams involving students.
- Notification of the degree program coordinator and the Dean of Studies is required.

Evaluation and Selection Criteria

- **Contribution to strengthening the values and strategic goals of the university.**
- **Innovation in teaching with potential for further development.**
- **Improvement of teaching and examination quality.**

Furthermore the application must meet the following conditions:

- Feasibility and plausibility of the use of funds (financial plan).
- Description of project-specific success criteria and planned evaluation.
- Sustainability and transferability of the project.
- If materials will be developed, Open Educational Resources (OER) are preferred.
- Consideration of accessibility as well as gender and diversity aspects.
- Proof of acknowledgement by the degree program coordinator(s) and the Dean of Studies.

Selection Process

Applications will be evaluated and selected based on the criteria mentioned above. The selection committee consists of: the Vice President for Teaching and Studies, a representative of the university professors, a representative of the independently teaching mid-level faculty, a student, and a representative from the Administrative Unit of Teaching and Studies.

Project Implementation

- Projects begin with a joint kick-off meeting to present the projects and will be supported by the Academic Unit of Teaching and Studies.
- A workshop for subject-specific deepening and peer feedback will take place during the funding period.
- All projects will present their results and evaluations at a networking and collegial reflection event (Closing Forum) and submit a brief final report.

Timeline and Deadlines

- **July 8, 2026:** Call for applications
- **July 10, August 7, and September 4:** Information sessions ([online, see website](#))
- **By September 15, 2026:** Submission of applications
- **October 30, 2026:** Announcement of selected projects
- **March 2028:** Closing Forum

Maximum project duration is one year (two semesters), ending no later than **March 31, 2028**.

Important Notes

- The call for applications and the allocation of funds are subject to the final approval and release of funds.
- The Administrative Unit for Teaching and Studies offers to advise you on possible innovations in your courses, modules, or degree programs, regardless of this specific funding scheme.

- **Contact and Information:** hddg@wv.uni-bremen.de (Franziska Richter, Carola Schirmer)